

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VENOUS DRAINAGE AND RETROGRADE CORONARY PERFUSION

Priority Claim

5 **[0001]** This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application Serial
No. 09/894,564, filed on June 28, 2001, the entirety of which is hereby
incorporated herein by reference.

Field of the Invention

[0002] The field of this invention is cardiac bypass surgery and
10 cardiopulmonary bypass.

Background of the Invention

[0003] During cardiac surgery for procedures such as coronary artery
bypass grafting, heart valve repair or replacement, septal defect repair,
pulmonary thrombectomy, atherectomy, aneurysm repair, aortic dissection repair
15 and correction of congenital defects, cardiopulmonary bypass and cold cardiac
ischemic arrest are often required. Typically, a cooled cardioplegia solution, a
solution containing elevated levels of potassium, for example, is administered in
the antegrade direction (in the direction of normal blood flow) through the
patient's aorta and into the coronary arteries. The cold (2 to 3 degrees
20 centigrade) cardioplegia solution stops the heart from beating and reduces its
temperature to minimize damage to the heart during surgery. The cardioplegia
solution exits the coronary circulation through the coronary veins at the coronary

sinus, where it empties into the right atrium. Cardiopulmonary bypass maintains the peripheral circulation of oxygenated blood to all body organs except the heart during the period of cold, cardioplegic, ischemic arrest.

5 **[0004]** For some patients, such as those suffering from critical coronary artery stenosis and aortic valve disease, antegrade perfusion may be difficult, inefficient and incomplete. Retrograde (in the direction opposite of normal blood flow) cardioplegia, using current technology, may be administered via the coronary sinus into the coronary circulation using devices, which cannulate the coronary sinus. Such cannulation of the coronary sinus by prior art devices
10 requires inserting a catheter into the coronary sinus and perfusing cardioplegia into the sinus. Drainage of cardioplegia solution is accomplished into the coronary ostia located at the base of the aorta. The problem with prior art methods is that either the right or left heart will be perfused, but not both, since the right coronary veins come off the coronary sinus at an angle and are not
15 cannulated by current catheters that cannulate the left coronary veins. Thus, incomplete perfusion of segments of the heart muscle, primarily the right heart and septum, will occur since the right coronary veins frequently come off near the coronary sinus ostia or within the right atrial wall proper. The right coronary veins are not perfused by prior art retrograde cardioplegic catheters.

20 **[0005]** Currently surgeons performing cardiac bypass surgery use one or more cannulae for venous drainage and an additional cannula for retrograde perfusion. The multiple cannulae are obstacles and restrict visibility in the surgical arena. Placement of the cardioplegia cannula into the coronary sinus is

a semi-blind procedure performed through an additional purse-string suture-closed access port via the right atrium. The retrograde cannula may be improperly positioned within the coronary sinus, which results in critical coronary vessels being inadequately perfused. Typically, placement of currently available
5 retrograde cardioplegia cannula within the coronary sinus results in retrograde perfusion of the left heart but inadequate retrograde perfusion of the right heart because of cannula obstruction of the right coronary ostia as they arise from the coronary sinus. Thus the tissue of the left heart is perfused, in a retrograde direction, with cardioplegia solution but the right heart is perfused with a
10 diminished, or no, supply of cardioplegia solution since the right coronary veins are generally a side-branch of the left coronary veins at the coronary sinus and the right coronary veins are blocked by the cannula. Poor right heart retrograde perfusion occurs because, most-frequently, anatomic variations of the right coronary sinus and veins cannot be properly perfused with the currently available
15 cannula.

[0006] New devices and methods are needed, which facilitate cold cardioplegic arrest, yet limit the number of cannulae required to isolate the heart and coronary blood vessels from the peripheral vasculature, arrest the heart, protect all the coronary blood vessels, protect all or most of the myocardium, and
20 drain venous blood from the inferior and superior vena cava. Furthermore, it would be advantageous to the diseased myocardium being subjected to ischemic arrest if a retrograde cardioplegia perfusion cannula could perfuse the coronary vasculature of both the right and left heart simultaneously.

Summary of the Invention

[0007] This invention relates to a balloon, or tourniqueted, catheter or cannula useful in the retrograde administration of cardioplegia through the coronary sinus and simultaneous venous drainage during cardiac bypass surgery without the need to cannulate the coronary sinus.

[0008] The invention is a cannula for performing venous drainage and retrograde perfusion of the heart during cardiac bypass surgery. A single multi-lumen cannula of the present invention can perform the same function as multiple cannulae currently used. The cannula of the invention for cardioplegic administration can improve the protection of a heart during periods of ischemia such as occurs during open-heart surgery. The cannula is preferably fabricated from materials, which are biocompatible for the intended use.

[0009] One embodiment of the invention is a multi-lumen cannula with occlusive structures for the superior and inferior vena cava, a protection structure, cardioplegia infusion channel, a pressure monitoring port, and venous drainage ports. Occlusion structures may include devices such as, but not limited to, balloons, umbrellas, structures that draw a vacuum against a wall of the heart, externally applied tourniquets, umbrellas with rim-seal balloons, or the like. In a preferred embodiment, the occlusion structures are balloons constructed of elastomeric materials or vacuum-assisted walled structures.

[0010] In one embodiment, a first lumen of the cannula is connected to the cardioplegia infusion system and provides cardioplegia solution to arrest the heart. A second cannula lumen is connected to the venous drainage system.

The drainage ports are located in the second lumen. A third lumen is connected to the balloon inflation system, which provides inflation fluids, such as water, isotonic saline or cardioplegia solution, under controlled pressure or volume to inflate the occlusion balloons. The pressure of the occlusion balloons and right atrium may also be monitored through additional lumens. The occlusion balloons isolate the heart from the peripheral vasculature by occluding the inferior and superior vena cava just proximal to the right atrium. The inferior and superior vena cava balloons utilized to direct flow into the extracorporeal circuit are optionally movable to accommodate anatomic variability. Additional lumens may be utilized for inflation of multiple balloons, pressure monitoring, flow monitoring, drainage of cardioplegia, fluid and drug infusion and the like. Since it is useful to measure cardioplegic perfusion pressure, a pressure transducer or pressure measuring lumen may, for example, be provided at or near the distal end of the cardioplegia perfusion lumen for this purpose.

[0011] The cannula may be placed into the vena cava, for example, via a route through the internal jugular vein, cranial vena cava, femoral vein, or brachial vein. A smaller diameter cannula may be placed through any of the smaller venous access ports. The use of smaller venous access ports may be enabled by use of a pump or vacuum powered venous drainage system, typically external to the cannula. In one embodiment, the catheter or cannula combines the functions of several catheters currently used in cardiac surgery. A single catheter, rather than multiple catheters, facilitates the surgery and improves the surgical field because extra cannulae do not obstruct the operative field. In

addition, the number of individual catheters is reduced, providing a more cost effective method for cardiac surgery. Most importantly, improved cardiac protection is achieved compared to that of standard retrograde perfusion cannulae.

5 **[0012]** In yet another embodiment, a single-function venous drainage cannula comprising occlusion balloons, a cannula, a drainage lumen and ports, and a balloon inflation lumen and ports is provided for access through any percutaneous access point and is routed to the right atrium through the venous system. This embodiment would be very useful for emergency cardiac assist.

10 **[0013]** The cannula of the present invention provides for venous drainage and simultaneous retrograde cardioplegia delivery into the coronary sinus of the heart so that the myocardium of both the right and left heart is perfused. In doing so, the coronary sinus is pressurized. Optionally, some or all of the right atrium is pressurized. Since such pressurization is unnatural for the thin walls of the
15 right atrium, the catheter or cannula, in one embodiment, provides structures that protect the walls of the right atrium from the high perfusion pressures and minimize the risk of wall rupture. These protective structures include double wall balloons that inflate to approximate the interior of the right atrium. The space between the inner wall and the outer wall is ribbed or channeled so that gaps are
20 maintained when a vacuum is drawn in the space between the outer wall and the inner wall of the balloon. The vacuum is drawn through the cannula by a vacuum applied at the proximal end of the cannula by way of a connector. The venous drainage cannula runs through the center of the balloon and allows for venous

blood drainage from both the superior and inferior vena cava. The balloon further comprises a walled off region that is disposed laterally relative to the venous drainage cannula and permits pressurization of the coronary sinus with cardioplegia solution which is introduced at the proximal end of the cannula and
5 which flows through a lumen in the cannula to reach the walled-off region. In one embodiment, the protection structure eliminates the need for the occlusive balloons in the vena cava.

[0014] In yet another embodiment, the balloon does not require pulling a vacuum but simply inflates to seal off or isolate the walls of the vena cava relative
10 to the walled-off region in which pressurized cardioplegia solution is infused. Seals or gaskets are provided to ensure that such pressure seal is optimized. In yet another embodiment, the vacuum system further comprises an external collection reservoir and plumbing that returns any blood or bodily fluids captured by the vacuum system, to the external cardiopulmonary circuit.

15 [0015] Since the cardioplegia cannula does not cannulate the coronary sinus, it will perfuse both the left and right side of the heart. Perfusion of the right heart may be very important in obtaining optimal patient outcomes following cardiopulmonary bypass. In addition, cold cardioplegic solution will bathe the endomyocardium of the right ventricle aiding in myocardial protection of the right
20 heart.

[0016] In one embodiment, a venous cannula is adapted for retrograde administration of cardioplegia solution to a heart and simultaneous venous drainage from a vena cava during cardiopulmonary bypass comprising a

cardioplegia solution infusion mechanism, wherein the cardioplegia solution infusion mechanism receives pressurized cardioplegia solution and routes the pressurized cardioplegia solution into a coronary sinus, located in a right atrium of a heart, without cannulating the coronary sinus. The venous cannula further
5 comprises a venous blood drainage mechanism, wherein the venous blood drainage mechanism drains venous blood from a superior and an inferior vena cava. The cannula further comprises a vena cava occlusion mechanism, wherein the vena cava occlusion mechanism occludes the vena cava from the right atrium to prevent pressurized cardioplegia solution from entering the vena
10 cava. The venous cannula further comprises a protection device, wherein the protection device limits pressurization of the right atrium by the pressurized cardioplegia solution.

[0017] One aspect of the invention is a method of cannulating a patient's heart during cardiopulmonary bypass comprising the steps of inserting a cannula
15 into a venous system of a patient and then positioning the cannula so that said cannula traverses a right atrium and extends into both a superior and an inferior vena cava. The method further comprises enabling an occlusion device in each of the superior and inferior vena cava and draining venous blood from the vena cava. The method further comprises inflating a protection balloon within the right
20 atrium and infusing cardioplegia solution, in the retrograde direction, into a coronary sinus of the heart, without cannulating the coronary sinus, wherein the cardioplegia solution is infused through the cannula into the coronary sinus.

[0018] In another embodiment of the invention, a venous cannula is adapted for retrograde administration of cardioplegia solution to a heart during cardiopulmonary bypass and comprises a length of axially elongate multi-lumen tubing with a proximal end and a distal end, wherein at least one of the lumens is
5 a cardioplegia solution infusion lumen, and a cardioplegia solution infusion annulus located near the distal end of the multi-lumen tubing the infusion annulus being operably connected to the cardioplegia solution infusion lumen. The venous cannula further comprises an annular seal ring surrounding the cardioplegia solution infusion annulus, wherein a vacuum lumen in the multi-
10 lumen tubing is operably connected to the annular seal ring. The venous cannula also comprises a cardioplegia solution infusion mechanism, wherein the cardioplegia solution infusion mechanism receives pressurized cardioplegia solution from an external cardioplegia solution infusion source and delivers it to the cardioplegia solution infusion lumen.

[0019] For purposes of summarizing the invention, certain aspects, advantages and novel features of the invention are described herein. It is to be understood that not necessarily all such advantages may be achieved in accordance with any particular embodiment of the invention. Thus, for example, those skilled in the art will recognize that the invention may be embodied or
20 carried out in a manner that achieves one advantage or group of advantages as taught herein without necessarily achieving other advantages as may be taught or suggested herein.

[0020] These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be more apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

5 [0021] A general architecture that implements the various features of the invention will now be described with reference to the drawings. The drawings and the associated descriptions are provided to illustrate embodiments of the invention and not to limit the scope of the invention. Throughout the drawings, reference numbers are re-used to indicate correspondence between referenced
10 elements.

[0022] Figure 1 illustrates a longitudinal cross-section of the cannula of the present invention comprising a distal tip, a proximal end, and a connecting tube according to aspects of an embodiment of the invention. External systems provide for venous drainage, cardioplegia infusion, and balloon inflation;

15 [0023] Figure 2 illustrates a lateral cross-section of a multi-lumen axially elongate tube for construction of the cannula according to aspects of an embodiment of the invention;

[0024] Figure 3 illustrates, in detail, a longitudinal cross-section of the distal tip of the cannula of Figure 1 according to aspects of an embodiment of the
20 invention;

[0025] Figure 4 illustrates, in detail, a longitudinal cross-section of the proximal end of the cannula of Figure 1 according to aspects of an embodiment of the invention;

5 [0026] Figure 5 shows the placement of the cannula of the present invention in the heart for venous drainage and retrograde perfusion according to aspects of an embodiment of the invention;

[0027] Figure 6 illustrates, in exterior view, another embodiment of the cannula comprising multiple balloons to accommodate various anatomic differences according to aspects of an embodiment of the invention. Cutouts on
10 the balloons show features on the cannula surface that would normally be hidden by the balloons;

[0028] Figure 7 illustrates a lateral cross-section of a multi-lumen tube for construction of the cannula of Figure 6 according to aspects of an embodiment of the invention;

15 [0029] Figure 8 illustrates a longitudinal cross-section of a cannula comprising a balloon to protect the walls of the vena cava from high pressure during retrograde cardioplegia infusion, according to aspects of an embodiment of the invention;

[0030] Figure 9 illustrates a lateral cross-section of an axially elongate,
20 multi-lumen tube for use in a cannula comprising a balloon to protect the walls of the vena cava from high pressure during retrograde cardioplegia infusion, according to aspects of an embodiment of the invention;

[0031] Figure 10 illustrates a longitudinal cross-section of the distal end of a cannula comprising a laterally directed retrograde cardioplegia delivery annulus and a seal system surrounding the cardioplegia delivery annulus, according to aspects of an embodiment of the invention; and

5 **[0032]** Figure 11 illustrates a longitudinal cross-section of a distal end of a cannula comprising a forward directed retrograde cardioplegia delivery annulus, a seal system surrounding the cardioplegia delivery annulus, and a steering mechanism, according to aspects of an embodiment of the invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

[0033] As used herein the terms distal and proximal are used to clarify the location of various points along the axial length of the venous drainage and retrograde perfusion catheter or cannula. Points are defined with respect to the end grasped by the user and the end that is inserted in the patient in the same manner as would one skilled in the art of medical device catheter construction. The proximal end of the catheter or cannula is defined as that end closest to the user or operator of the catheter or cannula while the distal end of the catheter or cannula is defined as that end that is inserted into the patient.

[0034] Figure 1 illustrates a catheter, tube or cannula **10** of an embodiment of the invention connected to a cardioplegia infusion system or set **12**, a venous drainage collection system **14** and an occlusion enabling system **16**. In this preferred embodiment, the occlusion enabling system **16** is a balloon inflation system. The catheter **10** comprises a distal tip **18**, a proximal end **20**, and a length of multi-lumen connection tubing **22**. The proximal end **20** comprises a manifold or hub **23**. The manifold **23** comprises a cardioplegia infusion adapter or fitting **24**, a venous drainage collection adapter or fitting **26**, and an occlusion adapter **28**. In a preferred embodiment, the occlusion adapter **28** may be a balloon inflation adapter, quick-connect, bayonet, luer fitting, or the like. The manifold **23** is typically molded from materials such as, but not limited to, polymers such as polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate, ABS, polyimide, poly methyl-methacrylate, or the like.

[0035] The cardioplegia infusion adapter **24** is connected to the cardioplegia infusion system **12**. The cardioplegia infusion adapter **24** may be any fluid-tight fitting, such as, for example, a luer adapter, quick-connect, or other fluid-tight fitting, suitable for use with the cardioplegia infusion set **12**. The standard cardioplegia system **12** generally comprises a pressurized or non-pressurized bag of cardioplegia solution, a roller pump or similar pressurizing system, a length of tubing and a plurality of connectors. Standard cardioplegia solutions include those comprising water, electrolytes such as but not limited to potassium, crystalloid solutions, blood, and the like.

[0036] The venous drainage collection adapter **26** is connected to the venous drainage collection system **14**. The drainage collection adapter **26** is typically larger in diameter than the balloon inflation fitting **28** or cardioplegia infusion fitting **24**. The drainage collection adapter **26** should be capable of being connected to the gravity fed, pump driven or vacuum fed drainage system **14** and is, for example, a 3/8 inch to 1/2 inch diameter hose barb but could be as small as 1/8 inch in diameter. Standard venous drainage systems **14** generally comprise a connector, a length of tubing and a venous reservoir. Optionally, a vacuum pump may be connected to the venous reservoir.

[0037] The balloon inflation adapter **28** is connected to the balloon inflation system **16**. The balloon inflation adapter **28** is typically a female luer fitting but may be any fluid-tight fitting suitable for use with an inflation syringe or the like. The standard balloon inflation system **16** comprises a syringe, a volume of balloon inflation fluid such as saline or radiopaque media, and a valve or

stopcock associated with each balloon inflation adapter **28**. Additionally, the balloon inflation system **16** could comprise a device, such as, for example, a jackscrew, which is a threaded rod moved longitudinally by a longitudinally affixed but rotatable nut, or a pressurized hydraulic cylinder, to advance or
5 withdraw a plunger on the syringe using mechanical advantage.

[0038] Figure 2 shows the cross-section of the connection tubing **22**. The connection tubing **22** may be a length of multi-lumen tubing comprising an infusion lumen **30**, a venous drainage lumen **32**, an inflation lumen **34**, and a wall **31**. The connection tubing **22** is preferably made from a polymeric material such
10 as polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane and the like. In a preferred embodiment, the tubing **22** is transparent.

[0039] Figure 3 illustrates the distal tip **18** of the catheter **10** of Figure 1 in detail. The distal tip **18** is an extension of the connecting tubing **22** and comprises the infusion lumen **30**, the venous drainage lumen **32** and the inflation
15 lumen **34**. Additionally, the distal tip **18** comprises a plurality of venous drainage ports **36**, a distal or first occlusion device **39**, a plurality of cardioplegia infusion port or ports **42**, and a proximal or second occlusion device **45**. The distal tip **18** further comprises an inflation lumen plug **48** and an infusion lumen plug **50**. A cardioplegic drainage lumen may likewise be utilized to adjust cardioplegic
20 perfusion pressures, if needed.

[0040] In an embodiment, the first occlusion device **39** comprises a first balloon **38** and a plurality of first balloon inflation ports **40**. The second occlusion

device **45** comprises a second balloon **44** and a plurality of second balloon inflation ports **46**.

[0041] The venous drainage ports **36** are openings in the drainage lumen **32** and connect the venous drainage lumen **32** with the exterior of the cannula **10**. There is no communication between the venous drainage lumen **32** and the other cannula lumens **30** and **34**. The venous drainage ports **36** are preferably located more proximally than the second balloon **44** and/or more distally than the first balloon **38** on the cannula **10**.

[0042] The balloon inflation ports **40** and **46** are located on the inflation lumen **34**. The inflation lumen **34** is isolated from the other cannula lumens **30** and **32**. The first balloon **38** and the second balloon **44** are located over the first balloon inflation ports **40** and the second balloon inflation ports **46**, respectively. When the balloon inflation fluid flows through the inflation ports **40** and **46** from the inflation lumen **34**, the balloons **38** and **44** inflate.

[0043] The cardioplegia infusion port(s) **42** are openings on the infusion lumen **30**. The infusion lumen **30** is isolated from the other lumens **32** and **34**. The cardioplegia infusion ports **42** are located between the balloons **38** and **44** such that cardioplegia solution is infused between the balloons **38** and **44** and is directed into the right atrium and ventricle of the heart where it subsequently passes into the coronary arteries by way of the coronary sinus.

[0044] Figure 4 shows the proximal end **20** of the cannula **10** of Figure 1 in detail. The proximal end **20** is an extension of the connecting tube **22** and comprises the cardioplegic infusion lumen **30**, the venous drainage lumen **32**,

and the inflation lumen **34**. The proximal end **20** additionally comprises the manifold **23**, which comprises the cardioplegia infusion adapter **24**, the venous drainage collection adapter **26** and the balloon inflation adapter **28**. The cardioplegia infusion adapter **24** connects to the infusion lumen **30**. The venous
5 drainage collection adapter **26** connects to the drainage lumen **32** and the balloon inflation adapter **28** connects to the inflation lumen **34**.

[0045] Figure 5 illustrates the placement of the cannula **10** of the present invention in a heart **100** during retrograde perfusion. The heart **100** comprises a left ventricle **102**, a right ventricle **104**, a coronary sinus **108**, a right atrium **110**,
10 an inferior vena cava **112**, and a superior vena cava **114**.

[0046] During normal operation of the heart, or during the normal cardiac cycle, blood returning from the tissues of the body passes through peripheral veins into the superior **114** and inferior vena cava **112** and into the right atrium **110**. The coronary sinus **108** is the region of the heart **100** where blood exits the
15 coronary vascular circuit and passes back into the right atrium **110**. The coronary sinus **108** is located in close proximity to the inferior vena cava's entry into the right atrium **110**. Blood leaving the coronary circulation by way of the coronary sinus **108** joins the venous blood from the vena cava **112** and **114** in the right atrium **110**. The venous blood flows from the right atrium **110** into the
20 right ventricle. Venous blood is pumped by the right ventricle **104** into the lungs where it is oxygenated and where carbon dioxide is removed. The oxygen-rich blood then passes into the left atrium and left ventricle **102** where it is then pumped into the systemic circulation to nourish the organs and tissues of the

body. The coronary ostia, or entrance to the coronary arteries, are located at the root of the aorta, just downstream of the aortic valve.

[0047] When the heart **100** is placed on cardiopulmonary bypass, blood is removed from the venous circulation at the inferior vena cava **112** and superior vena cava **114** and is routed to an oxygenator that adds oxygen and removes carbon dioxide. The oxygenated blood is pumped back into the patient's systemic circulation so tissues can be perfused while the heart is being surgically repaired.

[0048] In an embodiment, the cannula **10** serves the triple function of blocking venous blood from entering the right heart during surgery, removing the venous blood from the vena cava so that it may be extracorporeally oxygenated and pumped back to the patient, and infusing cardioplegia solution into the heart in a retrograde direction during the surgical repair procedure.

[0049] Referring to Figures 1, 3, 4, and 5, the physician makes an incision in the jugular vein, for example, and inserts the distal tip **18** of the catheter or cannula **10** into the incision. The catheter **10** is threaded into the vein, advanced into the vena cava **112** and **114**, and positioned, with the aid of fluoroscopy, for example, such that the balloons **38** and **44** are located in the inferior vena cava **112** and superior vena cava **114**, respectively. The cardioplegia infusion ports **42** are located at the entrance to, or inside of, the right atrium **110** and the drainage ports **36** are located in the superior vena cava **114** and inferior vena cava **112**, proximal or upstream of the balloons **38** and **44**. In one embodiment, the

superior and inferior vena cava obstructive balloons **38** and **44** can be adjusted to an appropriate position within the respective vena cava **112** or **114**.

[0050] Next, the balloon inflation system **16** is activated. Balloon inflation is accomplished by driving balloon inflation fluid from the balloon inflation system **16**, through the balloon inflation adapter **28**, into the balloon inflation lumen **34**, through the balloon inflation ports **40** and **46** and into the balloons **38** and **44**. The inflation lumen plug **48** prevents the balloon inflation fluid from escaping from the distal end of the inflation lumen **34**. This infusion of balloon inflation fluid causes the balloons **38** and **44** to inflate and occlude the entrance of the right atrium **110** from the superior vena cava **114** and the inferior vena cava **112**. Because of this occlusion, blood is prevented from flowing from the superior vena cava **114** and the inferior vena cava **112** into the right atrium **110** of the heart **100**, and must exit via the drainage ports **36** of the cannula **10**. The blood passes through the cannula **10** and on into the venous reservoir of the cardiopulmonary bypass system, also known as a circuit.

[0051] The cardioplegia solution flows from the cardioplegia infusion system **12**, through the cardioplegia infusion adapter **24**, into the infusion lumen **30**, through the cardioplegia infusion ports **42**, and into the right atrium **110** where, under a moderate pressure of 120 mm Hg or less, the cardioplegia solution enters the coronary sinus **108** and the right ventricle **104**. In order for cardioplegic solution to enter the coronary sinus **108** in a retrograde fashion, the right atrium **110** and ventricle **104** must be pressurized, which necessitates occlusion of the pulmonary artery root. The pulmonary artery thus is typically

cross-clamped, for example, to prevent perfusion of the lungs during surgery. The infusion lumen plug **50** prevents the cardioplegia solution from escaping from the distal end of the infusion lumen **30**. The cardioplegia solution arrests the beating of the heart **100** by interfering with the sodium potassium cycle of the
5 cardiac muscle cells.

[0052] In addition, the venous drainage collection system **14** is activated. Any blood in the superior vena cava **114** and inferior vena cava **112** flows through the drainage ports **36**, into the drainage lumen **32**, through the drainage collection adapter **26**, and into the drainage collection system **14**. The drainage
10 collection system **14** collects the venous blood. This blood is, in most cases, routed to a venous reservoir of a cardiopulmonary bypass system. The blood then passes into an oxygenator where it undergoes removal of carbon dioxide and addition of oxygen. The blood also passes through a heat exchanger where it undergoes heat transfer, either heating or cooling. The oxygenated and
15 cooled, or warmed, blood is pumped back into the patient's systemic circulation via an arterial cannula placed in a systemic artery distal to the aortic valve.

[0053] The surgeon can now perform the prescribed heart surgery. A single cannula of the present invention provides the infusion, inflation, and drainage functions, which eliminates the need for the multiple cannulae currently
20 used for open-heart procedures.

[0054] Referring to Figure 5, patients have different spacing between the entrance of the inferior vena cava **112** into the right atrium **110** and the entrance of the superior vena cava **114** into the right atrium **110**. A one-size-fits-all

catheter **10** may not be optimum for use in all patients. Figure 6 shows a more preferred embodiment of the catheter, which compensates for anatomic differences between patients. The operations of cardioplegia infusion and drainage collection are the same as that described earlier for the cannula **10**.

5 **[0055]** Referring to Figure 6, the catheter or cannula **52** comprises a plurality of first balloons **54**, a second balloon **56**, a plurality of first balloon inflation port sets **58**, a plurality of second balloon inflation ports **60**, and a length of connecting tubing **62**. The catheter **52** also comprises a manifold **64**, which comprises a plurality of first balloon inflation adapters **66** and a second balloon
10 inflation adapter **68**. The catheter is connected to the cardioplegia infusion system **12**, the venous drainage collection system **14**, and the balloon inflation system **16**.

[0056] Figure 7 illustrates a cross section of multi-lumen connection tubing **62** for the construction of the catheter **52** of Figure 6. The tubing **62** comprises a
15 plurality of first balloon inflation lumens **70**, a second balloon inflation lumen **72**, the infusion lumen **30**, the drainage lumen **32**, and the wall **31**.

[0057] Referring to Figures 6 and 7, the balloon inflation system **16** connects to the catheter **52** through the first balloon inflation adapters **66** and the second balloon inflation adapter **68**. Each first balloon inflation adapter **66**
20 connects to one first balloon inflation lumen **70**. The second balloon inflation adapter **68** connects to the second balloon inflation lumen **72**. Each set of first balloon inflation ports **58** is located on one first balloon inflation lumen **66**. The second balloon inflation ports **60** are located on the second balloon inflation

lumen 72. Each first balloon 54 is positioned over one set of first balloon inflation ports 58, such that when inflation fluid is injected through the selected first balloon inflation ports 58, only the first balloon 54 over the selected first balloon inflation ports 58 is inflated. The second balloon 56 is positioned over the second balloon inflation ports 60 such that when balloon inflation fluid is injected through the second balloon inflation ports 60, the second balloon 56 is inflated. Each first balloon inflation adapter 66 has a corresponding first balloon inflation lumen 70, as shown in Figure 7, a corresponding set of first balloon inflation ports 58, and a corresponding first balloon 54.

10 [0058] Referring to Figures 5 and 6, the physician places the catheter 52 into the right atrium 110. The physician places the second balloon 56 in the entrance of the superior vena cava 114 and the series of first balloons 54 line up in the right atrium 110 and into the inferior vena cava 112. The second balloon 56 is inflated to occlude the superior vena cava 114. Only the first balloon 54 in the plurality of first balloons 54, which is in the entrance of the inferior vena cava 112, corresponding to the correct spacing for the patient's heart, is inflated to occlude the inferior vena cava 112. Balloons 54 and 56 to be inflated are connected to the balloon inflation system 16 through their balloon inflation lumen 70 and 72. The balloon inflation lumen 70 of the balloons 54 selected for non-inflation is simply not connected to the balloon inflation system 16. In this manner, the catheter 52 is optimized for the individual patient's anatomy. The better fit minimizes the chance of the balloons 54 and 56 slipping out of position

and leaking venous blood into the heart, with potentially severe complications for the surgery patient.

5 **[0059]** Preferably, the plurality of balloons are located on the distal end of the catheter's cardioplegia infusion ports **42**, although multiple balloons proximal to the cardioplegia inflation ports **42** would also be acceptable. Only the balloons that are spaced correctly to occlude the patient's superior **114** and inferior **112** vena cava are inflated.

10 **[0060]** In another embodiment for multiple balloon inflation selection, a single balloon inflation lumen may be connected to all of the balloons and to a control rod that selectively opens balloon inflation ports to the correct balloon or balloons. Such a control rod would typically be an axially elongate, torqueable structure running the length of the cannula tubing. By rotating or axially moving the control rod by grasping a projection at the proximal end of the cannula, inflation ports would be selectively opened between the balloon inflation lumen and the balloon to be inflated. Markings on the control rod would indicate which balloons were being inflated or which spacing was being chosen. Again, only the balloons correctly spaced to occlude the patient's vena cava are inflated. Other balloons would not be inflated because their ports would not have been selectively opened.

20 **[0061]** In yet another embodiment of the cannula **10**, the distal tip **18** comprises an accordion-like or telescoping structure between the occlusion devices **39** and **45**, and a control rod. The accordion-like or telescoping structure allows the length of the cannula **10** to be adjusted so that the occlusion devices

39 and 45 fit the spacing between the patient's superior vena cava 114 and inferior vena cava 112. This accordion-like structure is a longitudinally flexible area of the cannula 10 with corrugations to allow for compression or expansion in length. The control rod extends from the distal tip 18 of the cannula 10 to the proximal end 20. The control rod is linked to the cannula 10 such that pushing or pulling the control rod relative to the proximal end 20 increases or decreases the length of the cannula 10. The control rod is locked into place with a locking device when the correct spacing between the occlusion devices 39 and 45 is achieved. A telescoping structure could be used in place of the accordion-like structure to allow for cannula length adjustment using the control rod.

[0062] In yet another embodiment, the balloon inflation adapter 28 is connected to the cardioplegia infusion system 12. In this embodiment, the cardioplegia solution is used in the cardioplegia infusion system 12 to arrest the heart and in the balloon inflation system 16 to inflate the balloons 38 and 44 or 54 and 56. Typically, cardioplegia solution is infused at a pressure of around 20 mmHg. The balloons 38, 44, 54, and 56 may be inflated with an internal pressure of 20 mmHg and this pressure may be derived from the pressure of the cardioplegia solution. This embodiment has the advantage of reduced complexity and simplified pressure limiting.

[0063] The balloons 38 and 44 are only one way of occluding the vena cava 112 and 114. Another embodiment of the occlusive structures 39 and 45 comprises one or more external tourniquets. One or more tourniquets may be applied external to the vena cava 112 and 114 to seal the vena cava 112 and

114 to the cannula 10 and prevent cardioplegia solution from escaping the environs of the right atrium entry 110 to the coronary sinus 108.

[0064] A further embodiment of the occlusive structures 39 and 45 comprises umbrella mechanisms, which open up to occlude the vena cava. Opening and closing of the umbrellas, optionally with toroidal edge-seal balloons, would be accomplished using a control rod extending along the length of the catheter and out the proximal end of the catheter where it could be grasped.

[0065] Figure 8 illustrates a longitudinal cross-sectional view of the distal end of a catheter or cannula 120 of the present invention, comprising a length of cannula tubing 122, a distal occlusion balloon 124, a proximal occlusion balloon 126, a plurality of distal drainage ports 128, a plurality of proximal drainage ports 130, a protection balloon 132, an occlusion balloon pressurization or inflation lumen 134, a drainage lumen 136, a vacuum lumen 138 (not shown), a plurality of vacuum ports 140, a plurality of protection balloon perforations 142, and a walled-off cardioplegic delivery annulus 144. The protection balloon 132 further comprises an inner protection balloon layer 146, a protection balloon outer layer 148, a vacuum channel 150, one or more occlusion balloon inflation lumens 152, a plurality of protection balloon inflation ports 154, one or more cardioplegia delivery ports 156, and a cardioplegia delivery lumen 158, a protection balloon pressurization or inflation lumen 160, a plurality of occlusion balloon inflation ports 162, a cardioplegia delivery annulus wall 164, and a radiopaque marker 166. Figure 8 further illustrates the cannula 120 *in situ* in the heart 100 further comprising the left ventricle 102, the right ventricle 104, a plurality of coronary

veins **106**, the coronary sinus **108**, the right atrium **110**, the inferior vena cava **112**, and the superior vena cava **114**.

[0066] Referring to Figure 8, the protection balloon **132** may be either symmetric or asymmetrically disposed about the length of cannula tubing **122**.

5 The protection balloon **132** is sealably affixed to the cannula tubing **122**. The protection balloon **132** is affixed to the cannula tubing such that a vacuum channel **150** exists between the inner protection balloon layer and the outer protection balloon layer **148**. The vacuum channel **150** is in fluid communication with the vacuum lumen **138** in the cannula tubing **122** by way of vacuum ports
10 **140**. The vacuum lumen **138** is in fluid communication with a connector (not shown) on the proximal end of the cannula **120**. The walled-off cardioplegic delivery annulus **144** is a feature in the protection balloon **132** that directs cardioplegia from the cardioplegia delivery lumen **158** through cardioplegia delivery ports **156** and on into the coronary sinus. The walled-off cardioplegic
15 delivery annulus **144** is sealed from the rest of the vena cava and right atrium by the protection balloon **132**.

[0067] A vacuum being drawn through the vacuum channel **150** seals the protection balloon **132** through the protection balloon perforations **142** in the protection balloon outer layer **148**. Ridges or indentations (not shown) in the
20 vacuum channel **150** allow the vacuum to be maintained even though the outer protection balloon wall **148** is drawn against the inner protection balloon wall **146** by the vacuum. In this way, pressurized cardioplegia solution can be directed at the coronary sinus **108** and on into the coronary veins **106** without causing

excessive pressure on the walls of the right atrium **110** and vena cava **112** and **114**. The cardioplegia delivery channel or annulus **144** is directed at and is operably in fluid communication with the coronary sinus. Blood is drained through the drainage lumen **136** by way of the drainage ports **128** and **130** to the proximal end of the cannula **120** where it is routed to a collection device or cardiopulmonary bypass system. As shown in Figure 8, in a preferred embodiment the protection balloon inflation lumen **160** and the occlusion balloon inflation lumen **134** are the same channel. The protection balloon **132** is inflated by the protection balloon inflation lumen **160** through protection balloon inflation ports **154** while the occlusion balloons **124** and **126** are inflated by the occlusion balloon inflation lumen **134** through the occlusion balloon inflation ports **162**. The cardioplegia delivery lumen **158** is preferably asymmetric on the cannula **120** so radiopaque markers **166** are preferred to show the asymmetry and allow correct alignment of the cannula with the heart under fluoroscopy.

[0068] Referring to Figure 8, the cannula tubing **122**, comprises an affixed, optional radiopaque marker **166** or plurality of radiopaque markers **122** to allow visibility under fluoroscopy of the position of key elements of the tubing and to delineate the rotational orientation of the tubing **122**. The radiopaque (RO) marker **166** is asymmetrically configured circumferentially, in a preferred embodiment, so that under fluoroscopy, the RO marker **166** orientation and the orientation of the tubing **122** can be determined under said fluoroscopic evaluation. Examples of asymmetrical RO markers include, but are not limited to, arrows, rectangles with one rounded side, triangles, and the like. In another

embodiment, a plurality of radiopaque markers **166** are asymmetrically arranged to provide the user with cannula tubing **122** rotational information when viewed in two-dimensional projection as is typical with fluoroscopic visualization. An example of a preferred embodiment of multiple radiopaque markers **166** include, 5 but are not limited to two markers **166** that are asymmetric in shape, are located 180-degrees apart on the circumference of the tubing **122** or other cannula structure, such as the protection balloon **132**, and each comprises a fenestration or hole that is aligned with a hole on the opposing radiopaque marker **166** to ensure exact rotational orientation of the cannula **120**. Such rotational 10 orientation is complimentary to the longitudinal or axial positioning or orientation of the cannula **120**.

[0069] Figure 9 illustrates a lateral cross section of a length of cannula tubing **122**. The cannula tubing comprises a tube wall **170**, a vacuum lumen **138**, a drainage lumen **136**, one or more occlusion balloon inflation lumens **134**, a 15 cardioplegia delivery or infusion lumen **158**, and a protection balloon inflation lumen **160**.

[0070] Referring to Figures 8 and 9, the cannula tubing **122** is preferably flexible but has column strength and torqueability. The cannula tubing **122** diameter ranges from 5mm to 20mm. Preferably the cannula tubing **122** 20 diameter ranges from 8mm to 15mm. The cannula tubing **122** is preferably fabricated by extrusion. The cannula tubing **122** may also be fabricated by winding a wire or polymer coil or a wire or polymer braid around a mandrel. The cannula tubing **122** may be poured or dipped or extruded over this braid or coil to

provide additional torqueability, kink-resistance, and the like. The cannula tubing **122** is typically fabricated from polymers such as, but not limited to, PEBAX, polyurethane, silicone, poly vinyl chloride, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyimide, polyamide, and the like. The braid or coil used to reinforce the
5 cannula tubing **122** is preferably fabricated from wire such as, but not limited to, round or rectangular cross-sections of stainless steel, nitinol, Kevlar, polyimide, polyester, and the like. The radiopaque markers **166** may be comprised of metals such as platinum, tantalum, gold, and the like or they may be additives of barium sulfate and the like, formed as attached rings, extruded stripes, or other
10 shapes.

[0071] Figure 10 shows yet another embodiment of a venous cannula **200** adapted for retrograde administration of cardioplegia solution to a heart during cardiopulmonary bypass. The venous cannula **200** comprises a length of multi-lumen tubing **202** with a proximal end and a distal end, a cardioplegia solution
15 infusion lumen **204**, a cardioplegia solution infusion annulus **206** affixed at or near the distal end of the cannula **200**, an annular seal ring **208** affixed to the distal end of the cannula **200** surrounding the cardioplegia solution infusion annulus **206**, a vacuum lumen **210** operably connected to the vacuum or sealing annulus **220** of the annular seal ring **208**, a cardioplegia solution infusion port
20 **212** (not shown) affixed at the proximal end of the cannula **200**, and a vacuum port **214** (not shown) affixed at the proximal end of the cannula **200**. The annular seal ring **208** of the cannula **200** further comprises an optional inner wall **216**, an outer wall **218**, and a sealing annulus **220**. The cannula **200** further comprises

an optional inflation lumen **222** and an inflation port **224** (not shown), which are affixed to each other and operably connected to the sealing annulus **220**. The outer wall of the cardioplegia solution infusion annulus **206** is, in one embodiment, the same as the inner wall of the sealing annulus **220**. Webs or attachments (not shown) connect the inner wall of the sealing annulus **220** to the outer wall **218** of the annular seal ring **208** but permit application of a vacuum to tissue where the sealing annulus **220** touches said tissue. Expansion or movement of the outer wall **218** moves the inner wall of the sealing annulus **220** correspondingly.

[0072] Referring to Figure 10, the cardioplegia solution infusion port **212** comprises an attachment to a cardioplegia infusion system, which preferably comprises a reservoir of cardioplegia solution and a pump. The annular seal ring **208** comprises the inner wall **216** and the outer wall **218** and the sealing annulus **220**. The annular seal ring **208** controllably seals to the right atrial wall around the coronary sinus by way of a vacuum drawn through the vacuum lumen **210** by way of the vacuum port **214**. The annular seal ring **208**, when attached to the atrial wall by vacuum, prevents or minimizes the escape of cardioplegia solution from the cardioplegia solution infusion annulus **206** into the right atrium. In a preferred embodiment, the annular seal ring **208** is an expandable structure that can be inserted endovascularly and routed to the right atrium. The annular seal ring **208** is then expanded and placed against the tissue surrounding the coronary sinus. The interior most lumen of the annular seal ring **208** is the cardioplegia solution infusion annulus **206**. Such expansion of the annular seal

ring **208** is, in one embodiment, accomplished by providing an inflation lumen **222** within the tubing **202** and an inflation port **224** at the proximal end of the tubing **202**, the inflation port **224** operably connects to the inflation lumen **222**. Pressurized fluid such as air, saline, or radiopaque liquid is infused under
5 pressure and inflates the annular seal ring, which consists of multiple walls. A vacuum is then drawn through the vacuum lumen **210** as described earlier while cardioplegia solution is infused into the coronary sinus through the cannula **200** via a retrograde approach. In one embodiment, the cannula **200** further comprises the integral venous drainage system shown in Figure 8. In another
10 embodiment, the cannula **200** does not require a venous drainage system. The materials and methods used for manufacture of this embodiment, are the same as or similar to those used to manufacture the cannula of Figure 8.

[0073] In one embodiment, the annular seal ring **208** and the cardioplegia solution infusion annulus **206** are affixed to the cannula tubing **202** substantially
15 at a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the cannula tubing **202**. Thus, the annular seal ring **208** projects sideways, or is laterally directed, and toward the coronary sinus while the main axis of the cannula **200** is longitudinally located within the vena cavae. In a preferred embodiment, the annular seal ring **208** and cardioplegia solution infusion annulus **208** are controllably extendable in
20 the direction lateral to the longitudinal axis of the cannula tubing **202**. The expansion may be controlled from the proximal end of the cannula **200** by way of pull wires running through lumens in the tubing **202** or by inflation of balloon structures through inflation lumens in the tubing **202**.

[0074] Figure 11 illustrates another embodiment of the cannula **250**, wherein the annular seal ring **258** and the cardioplegia infusion annulus **256** are disposed concentrically with the axis of the tubing **252** so that the distal tip of the cannula **250** opens to form the cardioplegia solution infusion annulus **256**. In this embodiment, steering apparatus is disposed within the cannula **250** to bend, steer, or articulate the distal end of the cannula tubing **252** and allow the annular seal ring **258** to be mated or docked with the tissue surrounding the coronary sinus **108**. The steering apparatus comprises, in one embodiment, one or more pull-wires **260** slidably disposed within lumens **264** in the tubing **252**. The pull-wire lumens **264** are preferably located at 90-degree or 120-degree interval spacing about the cannula tubing **252**. For clarity, Figure 11 shows only one pull-wire lumen **264**. The pull-wire **260** associated with the illustrated pull-wire lumen **264** is also shown exiting the cannula tubing **260** cutaway. Additional pull-wires **260**, whose pull-wire lumens **264** are not shown, are shown exiting the tubing **252** cutaway more proximally. The pull-wires **260** are terminated at the proximal end of the cannula **250** with grips or knobs (not shown) that allow manual or power-assisted tension to be applied to the pull-wires. The pull-wires **260** are terminated and affixed at the distal tip of the cannula **250** into attachment points **262** on the distal end of the tubing **252**. The pull-wires **260** are preferably disposed on opposite circumferential sides of the tubing **252** so that tension on one pull-wire **260** causes the tubing **252** to bend to that side on which the pull-wire **260** is located. A minimum of one pull-wire **260** is required but more pull-wires **260** are desirable. In a preferred embodiment, three or more pull-wires **260**

are comprised by the cannula **250** to provide full X-Y orientation and articulation. The pull-wires **260** are fabricated from polyimide, polyester, stainless steel, nitinol, or other material with suitable tensile strength and biocompatibility. The pull-wire **260** may be either monofilament or multifilament with a braided
5 structure. The pull-wire **260** may further be coated with polytetrafluoroethylene or other fluoropolymers to minimize friction. In yet another embodiment, the pull-wire **260** is shape-memory nitinol and is selectively or controllably heated by application of electrical energy across its length to achieve contraction of the pull-wire **260**. Such electrical energy is applied to electrical leads (not shown) that
10 run longitudinally through the cannula tubing **252** from the proximal end to the distal end and can provide a complete circuit to any component comprised by the cannula **250**.

[0075] Referring to Figure 11, in one embodiment, the tubing **252** is more flexible in a region **262** just proximal to the distal tip of the cannula **250**. This
15 region of increased flexibility **268** allows the cannula tubing **252** to bend preferentially at that flexible region **268** upon application of tension in the pull-wires **260**. In yet another embodiment, the steering apparatus comprises microactuators such as those fabricated from shape memory metals and Ohmic heating elements or from electromechanical actuators. Exemplary shape-
20 memory microactuators include those described in U.S. Patent Number 6,447,478 to Ronald Maynard, entitled Thin-Film Shape Memory Alloy Actuators and Processing Methods, the entirety of which is included herein by reference. Electrical energy, provided at the proximal end of the cannula **250** and

transmitted by electrical cabling within lumens in the tubing **252**, provide the power and control for the microactuators. The control unit, which supplies the electrical energy to the microactuators minimally comprises a power supply and an on-off switch for each microactuator. The control unit may, in other
5 embodiments, comprise computer systems or other types of logic circuitry to control the power to the microactuators. The microactuators are preferably affixed longitudinally across the area of increased flexibility near the distal end of the cannula **250** and are disposed on opposing sides of the tubing to provide counter-motion since these actuators generally only work in tension, not
10 expansion.

[0076] Referring to Figure 11, the lateral cross-sectional shape of the annular seal ring **258** is generally or substantially circular but may be oval or any other appropriate shape. The annular seal ring **258** is, in a preferred embodiment, a double wall structure that permits a vacuum to be applied to a
15 vacuum annulus **254** between the walls to hold the annular seal ring **258** against the cardiac tissue with a high level of force. Vacuum is drawn at the proximal end of the cannula **250** and is transmitted to the vacuum annulus **254** by way of vacuum lumens in the cannula tubing **252** which are operably connected to the vacuum annulus **254** and the applied vacuum at the proximal end of the cannula
20 **250**. The cardioplegia infusion annulus **256** is a region interior to the inner wall of the annular seal ring **258**, which further permits and guides the infusion of cardioplegia solution, in a non-cannulating fashion, to the coronary sinus **108**. In one embodiment, the annular seal ring **258** is of constant, non-tapering cross-

section. In a preferred embodiment, the annular seal ring **258** comprises an elastomeric wall and an inflatable or expandable structure **266** at the distal tip to provide for diametric or radial expansion to a size greater than that of the cannula **250**. In one embodiment, the expandable structure **266** comprises a ring of shape-memory nitinol that expands under application of electricity which results in Ohmic heating of the nitinol to a temperature above its austenite finish temperature (A_f). The nitinol expandable ring **266** may be a simple split ring or it may be a pattern of diamonds, "W" s or "Z" s or other typical cardiovascular stent shapes known in the art that are capable of diametric expansion. The cannula **250** may further comprise a plurality of slats or longitudinal elastomeric elements **272**, which serve as a strain relief and permit smooth tapering of the tip when the expandable ring **266** is activated. These separated longitudinal elastomeric elements **272** are fabricated from stainless steel, nitinol, polyester, cobalt nickel alloys or other materials with high strength in the form of leaf springs. In a preferred embodiment, the longitudinal elastomeric elements **272** are fabricated from shape-memory nitinol and, upon application of electrical energy, are heated to above their austenitic finish temperature and expand to a pre-determined shape. In all embodiments, electrical energy is supplied at the proximal end of the cannula **250** and is routed to the distal tip of the cannula **250** by electrical leads (not shown) longitudinally disposed within lumens or co-extruded within the tubing **252**. These electrical leads are electrically connected to both ends of the nitinol itself or to high resistance heating elements disposed in proximity of the shape-memory nitinol. Removal of the electrical energy results in cooling and

restoration of the non-expanded configuration of the longitudinal elastomeric elements **272**. In another embodiment, the annular seal ring **258** further comprises an expandable structure **266**, which is a toroidal or annular balloon that expands under pressure applied at the proximal end of the cannula **250** and
5 transmitted through the length of the cannula tubing **252** by a pressurization lumen to the balloon, the interior of which is in fluid communication with the pressurization lumen. The balloon may be either an elastomeric balloon or an inelastic angioplasty type balloon and is pressurized with water, saline, radiopaque contrast media, gas, or other material. The annular seal ring **258**
10 preferably has a smooth distal edge that is capable of sealing to cardiac tissue without causing damage or trauma. Radiopaque markers **166** are, in a preferred embodiment, affixed to the distal end of the cannula **250** to assist with visualization and orientation of the cannula **250** distal tip under fluoroscopy. The radiopaque markers **166** are fabricated from material such as, but not limited to,
15 platinum, gold, iridium, tantalum, and the like.

[0077] The device or apparatus for such retrograde cardioplegia delivery is directed to a method for retrograde delivery of cardioplegia without cannulating the coronary sinus. Embodiments of the apparatus of the present invention permit the entire coronary sinus and coronary venous circuit to be perfused, and
20 therefore, both the right and left coronary veins are perfused. Referring to Figure 11, perfusion is, in a preferred embodiment, performed by sealing the catheter around the entrance to the coronary sinus **108** but not inserting a catheter into the coronary sinus **108**. In one embodiment, the preferred method comprises

inserting a catheter into the right atrium and inflating a protection balloon, which seals to the region around the coronary sinus. The protection balloon prevents high-pressure cardioplegia solution from over-inflating the right atrium or surrounding structures. Once the catheter or cannula seals to the region around
5 the coronary sinus, any air or gas is removed from the perfusion lumen and infusion of cardioplegic solution is initiated. At the conclusion of the procedure, cardioplegia solution infusion terminates, the vacuum terminates, and the surgeon, robot, or operator withdraws the cannula from the patient with any access sites being sealed by appropriate surgical, least invasive, or minimally
10 invasive techniques.

[0078] The catheter, cannula, device, or apparatus, all of which are used herein interchangeably, further comprises a cardioplegia delivery channel that is oriented toward the coronary sinus and sealed against the tissue around the coronary sinus. Such guiding or orientation is done either under direct
15 visualization or by fluoroscopic, MRI, or ultrasonic guidance. Fluoroscopic orientation and guidance is accomplished by visualizing radiopaque markers or structures on the catheter. The radiopaque markers or structures permit evaluation of orientation of the cannula since they are, in a preferred embodiment, asymmetrically placed about the cannula. The step of sealing is
20 performed by drawing a vacuum on the protection device or balloon to pull surrounding tissue against the balloon or protection device, thus sealing the region around the coronary sinus. In another embodiment, the sealing is performed by inflating a sealing structure into the right atrium or by opening an

umbrella-type structure, optionally comprising an inflatable toroidal edge sealing balloon, to occlude and seal off parts of the right atrium. Cardioplegia solution is then infused into the coronary sinus through infusion ports on the cannula. With this method, the use of occluding balloons is optional and may not be needed

5 since the protection balloon seals the coronary sinus from the rest of the circulation. Venous drainage is optionally performed by the same cannula as that used for the cardioplegia delivery and the drainage ports are preferably positioned within the superior and inferior vena cava. In another embodiment, cardioplegia is infused through a catheter that is inserted into the coronary sinus

10 **108**, but which is perforated so that cardioplegia solution can flow into the coronary veins **106** of both the right heart and the left heart. This system does not cannulate the coronary sinus **108** at the region of the coronary veins **106**. In yet another embodiment, the cannula is inserted surgically into the right atrium through an opening in the right atrium or vena cava, rather than being routed

15 endovascularly to the right atrium from a remote access site.

[0079] The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from its spirit or essential characteristics. The described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is therefore indicated by the appended

20 claims rather than the foregoing description. All changes that come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.